



## MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF POLICE – JOHN CURLEY

I feel compelled to provide an update on your Covina Police Department performance in light of the tragic death of George Floyd. All of us condemn the method of force used on Mr. Floyd and are incensed over the behavior of the officers involved. As a result of his death a national movement involving protests and civil unrest followed, bringing to light the racial inequities in our society. It is important for me as your Chief of Police to assure you that Covina police officers do not condone what happened in Minneapolis. Furthermore, you should know your Covina police officers are among the most highly trained, diverse, respectful and community-oriented law enforcement professionals I have had the pleasure to serve with during my 30 years.

The Covina Police Department's Mission is protecting our community through responsible policing and the relentless pursuit of crime. We carry out this mission through our shared values of honor, integrity, and service. Since becoming Chief in 2016, I've emphasized the 6 tenets of safety, productivity, leadership, ethical policing, community service, and regional collaboration. Our mission and values are practiced daily. We see ourselves as part of the community and we confront crime and disorder while holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards.

As your Chief of Police, I am committed to providing the highest quality of public safety service and to facilitate community members who wish to exercise their First Amendment rights by peaceful protest. Your police Department constantly re-evaluates its policies and procedures to ensure professional public safety services are provided. Covina police officers do not over police our community.

During this COVID-19 period, Covina police officers have continued quality service in spite of exposure to the virus and have committed to long hours away from their families. The massive national protests calling for defunding of police departments in order to infuse capitol into impoverished communities have followed the death of George Floyd. This rhetoric may sound logical however; many local and national programs are currently in place to provide assistance to homelessness, mental health and drug rehabilitation. Currently, law enforcement is already in a crisis regarding recruitment and retention and the challenges for training and funding due to the pandemic are significant.

Please know I am committed to hiring the most talented, community-oriented police officers for the City of Covina. My 6 tenets; specifically, *leadership, ethical policing, and community service* are what I firmly believe contributes to a community trusting its police department. More than ever, the police need community support and as always, I welcome any suggestions that may enhance our performance.